

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a substrate having a first surface, wherein the first surface of the substrate contains
 - 3 one of a plurality of hook and loop mechanisms; and
 - 4 a cable fastener capable of being releasably engaged to the substrate by means of a
 - 5 hook and loop connection;
 - 6 wherein the tie wrap contains another of the plurality of hook and loop
 - 7 mechanisms; and
 - 8 wherein the cable fastener is shaped to be capable of defining a variable-width
 - 9 opening.
- 1 2. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
- 2 mechanisms includes one or more mushroom-shaped stems.
- 1 3. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
- 2 mechanisms includes one or more pine-tree-shaped stems.
- 1 4. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
- 2 mechanisms includes one or more hooks.
- 1 5. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
- 2 mechanisms includes one or more loops.
- 1 6. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is planar.
- 1 7. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 a rigid frame.
- 1 8. The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein the frame includes at least one planar
- 2 surface.
- 1 9. The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein:
 - 2 the substrate includes a second surface substantially opposite the first surface; and
 - 3 the second surface of the substrate is coupled to the frame.

- 1 10. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the cable fastener is further shaped to
2 define:
3 an elongated body having a predetermined width; and
4 a head portion at one end of the body, the head portion having a width greater than
5 the predetermined width;
6 the head defining an opening through which the head of the tie wrap may be
7 pulled.
- 1 11. A method of managing cable, comprising:
2 supporting one or more cables with a cable fastener, the cable fastener being
3 shaped to be capable of defining a variable-width opening, wherein the cable fastener
4 contains one of a plurality of hook and loop mechanisms; and
5 releasably engaging the cable fastener to a substrate, wherein the substrate
6 contains another of the plurality of hook and loop mechanisms.
- 1 12. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
2 mechanisms includes one or more mushroom-shaped stems.
- 1 13. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
2 mechanisms includes one or more pine-tree-shaped stems.
- 1 14. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
2 mechanisms includes one or more hooks.
- 1 15. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the plurality of hook and loop
2 mechanisms includes one or more loops.
- 1 16. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the substrate is planar.
- 1 17. The method recited in Claim 11, further comprising:
2 providing a rigid frame.

1 18. The method recited in Claim 17, wherein the frame includes at least one planar
2 surface.

1 19. The method recited in Claim 17, further comprising:
2 coupling a second surface of the substrate to the frame, wherein the second
3 surface is substantially opposite the first surface of the substrate.

1 20. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the cable fastener is further shaped to
2 define:
3 an elongated body having a predetermined width; and
4 a head portion at one end of the body, the head portion having a width greater than
5 the predetermined width;
6 the head defining an opening through which the head of the tie wrap may be
7 pulled.

1 21. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the cables comprise one or more fiber
2 optic cables.

1 22. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the cables comprise one or more
2 electrical cables.

1 23. An apparatus comprising:
2 a means for supporting one or more cables, wherein the cable fastener means
3 further comprises a means for releasable engagement; and
4 a means for releasably engaging the cable fastener means.

1 24. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the means for releasable engagement
2 includes one or more mushroom-shaped stems.

1 25. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the means for releasable engagement
2 includes one or more pine-tree-shaped stems.

1 26. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the means for releasable engagement
2 includes one or more hooks.

1 27. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the means for releasable engagement
2 includes one or more loops.

1 28. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the substrate is planar.

1 29. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, further comprising:
2 a frame means for supporting one or more cables.

1 30. The apparatus recited in Claim 29, further comprising:
2 a means for coupling the substrate means to the frame means.

1 31. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the cable fastener means further
2 comprises:

3 a means for encircling the one or more cables such that each of the one or more
4 cables is squeezed into contact with at least one other of the one or more cables.

1 32. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the one or more cables comprise one
2 or more fiber optic cables.

1 33. The apparatus recited in Claim 23, wherein the one or more cables comprise one
2 or more electrical cables.

1 34. An apparatus for managing cable, comprising:

2 a rigid frame capable of accommodating a plurality of cables, the frame having at
3 least one planar surface;

4 a planar substrate having a first surface and a second surface, the second surface
5 being substantially opposite the first surface, the first surface of the substrate containing a

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6 plurality of engagement mechanisms, the second surface of the substrate being coupled to
7 the planar surface of the frame; and

8 a tie wrap containing loops capable of engaging the engagement mechanisms of
9 the substrate, wherein the tie wrap is thereby capable of being releasably engaged to the
10 substrate by means of a hook and loop connection, and wherein the tie wrap is shaped to
11 define:

12 an elongated body having a predetermined width; and
13 a head portion at one end of the body, the head portion having a width
14 greater than the predetermined width, and defining an opening through
15 which the body of the tie wrap may be pulled.

1 35. The apparatus recited in Claim 34, wherein the hooks are mushroom-shaped
2 stems.

1 36. The apparatus recited in Claim 34, wherein the plurality of cables comprises a
2 plurality of fiber optic cables.

1 37. The apparatus recited in Claim 34, wherein the plurality of cables comprises one
2 or more metal cables.

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